

Serial No. 10/036,377
Amdt. dated December 16, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2003

Docket No. P-0282

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 9, 15, 20, 24, 27, 29, 30, 34, 36, 38 and 40 are amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Liu (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0077808). Because Liu fails to disclose or suggest all the features recited in these claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lui is directed to an intelligent dictionary input method which can be used with a portable terminal such as a cellular telephone. In the Lui method, as a user inputs the letters of a word, the system will search a dictionary of words that begin with the letters already input by the user. The device will then display a plurality of word options which may be the word that the user intends to input. The user can then select one of the word options by pressing an input key. A method as disclosed in the Liu reference allows a user to input relatively lengthy words by just inputting the first few letters of the word. This can significantly shorten the amount of time required to input words.

In contrast, claims 1-40 are directed to methods and devices which allow a user to select a special character which corresponds to a normal alphabet letter. For instance, claim 1 recites a method which includes inputting an alphabet letter, and then displaying a plurality of European alphabet letters that correspond to the input alphabet letter. Claim 1 recites that a series of

numbers are associated with each of the displayed European alphabet letters. Claim 1 further recites a step of selecting one of the European alphabet letters using a numeral key on a key pad of the device.

A method as recited in claim 1 allows a user to first input a normal alphabet letter, and then select a European alphabet letter corresponding to the input alphabet letter by simply pressing a number key associated with the desired European alphabet letter. The claimed method allows the user to quickly and easily substitute a European alphabet letter for a normally input alphabet letter.

As noted above, Liu fails to disclose or suggest any type of method as recited in claim 1. Specifically, Liu fails to disclose a step of displaying a plurality of European alphabet letters which would correspond to an input alphabet letter. Liu also fails to disclose or suggest a step of selecting one of the European alphabet letters using a numeral key on a keypad of the device. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Liu. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features recited in these claims.

Independent claims 10 and 19 are also directed to methods of selecting special characters. Claims 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 are all directed to devices which allow a user to select a special character using a method similar to that described above in connection with claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that all the independent claims are allowable for reasons similar to

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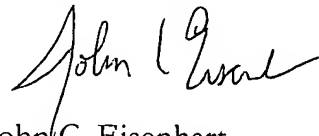
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those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Specifically, Liu fails to disclose or suggest any of the claimed methods or devices.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-40 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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